



Republican Policy Committee

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May 7, 1996

63 "Filibusters" and 15 Vetoes: Democrats Explode the "Gridlock Index"

Yesterday, on the Senate floor, Minority Leader Daschle asserted:

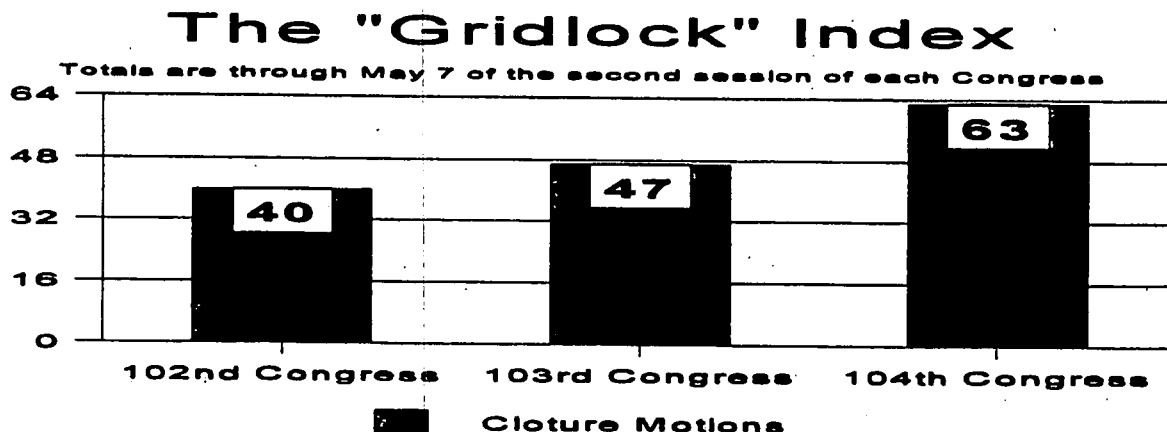
"Let me tell you . . . in the 102nd and 103rd Congresses, our Republican colleagues were the Babe Ruths of filibusters. We are still in the minor leagues when it comes to filibusters, when it comes to shutting this place down. . . . We will keep trying to apply the lessons given us in past Congresses to be effective as members of the minority, but we are not in that league yet. It is not even close."

[Congressional Record, p. S4721, 5/6/96; emphasis added]

Not Quite, Mr. Minority Leader!

So far, in the 104th Congress, Republicans have had to file 63 cloture petitions due to Democrat obstructionism. This number far exceeds the 47 petitions the Democratic majority filed at this point in the 103d Congress, and is 23 more than the 40 the Democratic majority filed at this point in the 102nd Congress.

On top of the 63 "filibusters," President Clinton has brandished his veto pen 15 times this Congress, most recently killing Product Liability Reform, and vetoing the ban on partial-birth abortions. Here are the numbers:



A total of 67 cloture petitions have been filed thus far in the 104th Congress. However, 4 of these were filed by the minority to close debate on different legislation and amendments, and have not been counted.

The Democrats, through the use of a filibuster, just two weeks ago killed a congressional term limits constitutional amendment, and earlier filibustered a balanced budget constitutional amendment. And, even when the President's party in the Senate is unable to stop legislation Americans want, the President has been more than willing to kill such items as a seven-year balanced budget, tax relief for middle-income Americans, and welfare reform. All this obstruction of legislation by filibuster and veto prevents progress on items that would reduce the size of government and the burden on the taxpayers.

Legislation "Filibustered" by Democrats So Far:

<u>Legislation</u>	<u>Cloture Motions Filed</u>
1) Unfunded Mandates, S. 1	4 cloture motions
2) Balanced Budget Amendment, H.J. Res. 1	3 cloture motions
3) Striker Replacement, Kassebaum amendment	2 cloture motions
4) Line-Item Veto, S. 4	2 cloture motions
5) Health Insurance Tax Deduction, H.R. 831	1 cloture motion
6) Supplemental/Rescissions, H.R. 1158	2 cloture motions
7) Product Liability, H.R. 956	5 cloture motions
8) Interstate Waste, S. 534	1 cloture motion
9) Alaska Power Administration, S. 395	1 cloture motion
10) Anti-terrorism, S. 735	1 cloture motion
11) Anti-Pornography, Lott amendment	2 cloture motions
12) National Highway System, S. 440	1 cloture motion
13) Regulatory Reform, S. 343	3 cloture motions
14) Foreign Relations Revitalization, S. 908	3 cloture motions
15) Foreign Assistance Authorization, S. 961	1 cloture motion
16) National Defense Authorization, S. 1026	2 cloture motions
17) Welfare Reform Bill, H.R. 4	1 cloture motion
18) Cuban Liberty & Democratic Solidarity, H.R. 927	3 cloture motions
19) Flag Desecration (motion to proceed), S.J. Res. 31	1 cloture motion
20) Labor/HHS Appropriations, H.R. 2127	1 cloture motion
21) Farm Bill, S. 1541	1 cloture motion
22) Farm Bill (Leahy Substitute amdt. 3184)	1 cloture motion
23) DC Appropriations, H.R. 2464	4 cloture motions
24) Whitewater Extension, S.Res. 227	8 cloture motions
25) Legal Reform/Product Liability, H.R. 956	2 cloture motions
26) Presidio Properties, H.R. 1296	1 cloture motion
27) Term Limits Constitutional Amendment, S.J.Res. 21	1 cloture motion
28) Immigration and Nationality Act, S. 1664	3 cloture motions
29) White House Travel Office, H.R. 2937	2 cloture motions
Total: 63 cloture motions	

Legislation Vetoed by President Clinton So Far:

- 1) Second Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act of 1995, H.R. 1158
- 2) Bosnia and Herzegovina Self-Defense Act, S. 21
- 3) Legislative Branch Appropriations 1996, H.R. 1854
- 4) Debt Ceiling Limit, H.R. 2586
- 5) Continuing Appropriations FY96, H.J. Res. 115
- 6) Seven Year Balanced Budget, H.R. 2491
- 7) Department of Interior Appropriations 1996, H.R. 1977
- 8) VA/HUD Appropriations 1996, H.R. 2099
- 9) Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations 1996, H.R. 2076
- 10) Securities Litigations Reform, H.R. 1058
- 11) Defense Authorization, H.R. 1530
- 12) Welfare Reform, H.R. 4
- 13) Ban on Partial-birth Abortions, H.R. 1833
- 14) State Department Reauthorization, H.R. 1561
- 15) Product Liability Reform, H.R. 956

Total: 15 Vetoes

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